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Cancel claims 15 and 21.

- 5. A vector comprising
- a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, or

 an expression cassette [as claimed in claim 4] comprising a nucleic acid

 sequence as claimed in claim 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one or

 more regulatory signals.
- 6. A transgenic organism comprising

 at least one nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, or

 at least one expression cassette [as claimed in claim 4] comprising a nucleic

 acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one

 or more regulatory signals, or

at least one vector [as claimed in claim 5] comprising

a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, or

an expression cassette comprising a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one or more regulatory signals.

- 8. A transgenic plant comprising a functional or nonfunctional nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1 or a functional or nonfunctional expression cassette [as claimed in claim 4] comprising a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one or more regulatory signals.
- 9. A process for preparing unsaturated fatty acids, which comprises introducing

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at least one nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1 or at least one expression cassette [as claimed in claim 4] comprising a nucleic

acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one

or more regulatory signals

into an oil-producing organism, culturing this organism and isolating the oil contained in the organism, and liberating the fatty acids contained in the oil.

10. A process for preparing triglycerides with an increased content of unsaturated fatty acids, which comprises introducing

at least one nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1 or

at least one expression cassette [as claimed in claim 4] comprising a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one or more regulatory signals

into an oil-producing organism, culturing this organism and isolating the oil contained in the organism.

- 11. A process as claimed in claim 9 [or 10], wherein the unsaturated fatty acids have an increased content of unsaturated fatty acids with a triple bond or with a double bond in position 6 or a triple bond and double bond in position 6.
- 12. A process as claimed in <u>claim 9</u> [any of claims 9 to 11], wherein the organism is a plant or a microorganism.
- 16. A process for preparing triglycerides with an increased content of unsaturated fatty acids by incubating triglycerides with saturated or unsaturated or saturated and

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unsaturated fatty acids with at least one of the proteins as claimed in claim 2 [, 13 or 14] or a protein comprising the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 8 or SEQ ID NO: 10.

- 18. A process as claimed in claim 16 [or 17], wherein the fatty acids are liberated from the triglycerides.
- 19. An unsaturated fatty acid prepared by a process as claimed in claim 9 [or 18].
- 20. A triglyceride with an increased content of unsaturated fatty acids prepared by a process as claimed in claim 10 [, 16 or 17].
- 23. The use of unsaturated fatty acids as claimed in claim 19 [or triglycerides with an increased content of unsaturated fatty acids as claimed in claim 20] for producing human foods, animal feed, cosmetics or pharmaceuticals.

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- 1. An isolated nucleic acid sequence which codes for a polypeptide having $\Delta 6$ -acetylenase and/or $\Delta 6$ -desaturase activity, selected from the group:
 - a) of a nucleic acid sequence having the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 11.
 - b) nucleic acid sequences which, as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, are derived from the nucleic acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 11.
 - c) derivatives of the nucleic acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 11, which code for polypeptides having the amino acid sequences depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, and having at least 75% homology at the amino acid level with a negligible reduction in the enzymatic action of the polypeptides.
- 2. An amino acid sequence encoded by a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1.
- An amino acid sequence as claimed in claim 2, encoded by the sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 3 or SEQ ID NO: 11.
- 4. An expression cassette comprising a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one or more regulatory signals.
- 5. A vector comprising

 a nucleic acid s⁻ quence as claimed in claim 1, or

 an expression cassette comprising a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim

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- 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one or more regulatory signals.
- 6. A transgenic organism comprising

at least one nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, or

at least one expression cassette comprising a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one or more regulatory signals, or

at least one vector comprising

a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, or

an expression cassette comprising a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one or more regulatory signals.

- 7. A transgenic organism as claimed in claim 6, where the organism is a plant, a microorganism or an animal.
- 8. A transgenic plant comprising
- a functional or nonfunctional nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1 or a functional or nonfunctional expression cassette comprising a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one or more regulatory signals.
- 9. A process for preparing unsaturated fatty acids, which comprises introducing at least one nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1 or at least one expression cassette comprising a nucleic acid sequence as claimed

in claim 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one or more regulatory signals

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into an oil-producing organism, culturing this organism and isolating the oil contained in the organism, and liberating the fatty acids contained in the oil.

10. A process for preparing triglycerides with an increased content of unsaturated fatty acids, which comprises introducing

at least one nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1 or

at least one expression cassette comprising a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1, where the nucleic acid sequence is linked to one or more regulatory signals into an oil-producing organism, culturing this organism and isolating the oil contained in the organism.

- 11. A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the unsaturated fatty acids have an increased content of unsaturated fatty acids with a triple bond or with a double bond in position 6 or a triple bond and double bond in position 6.
- 12. A process as claimed in claim 9, wherein the organism is a plant or a microorganism.
- 13. A protein comprising the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 8.
- 14. A proten comprising the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 10.
- 16. A process for preparing triglycerides with an increased content of unsaturated fatty acids by incubating triglycerides with saturated or unsaturated or saturated and unsaturated fatty acids with at least one of the proteins as claimed in claim 2 or a protein comprising the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID NO: 8 or SEQ ID NO: 10.

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- 17. A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the triglycerides are prepared in the presence of a compound which is able to take up or release reducing equivalents.
- 18. A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the fatty acids are liberated from the triglycerides.
- 19. An unsaturated fatty acid prepared by a process as claimed in claim 9.
- 20. A triglyceride with an increased content of unsaturated fatty acids prepared by a process as claimed in claim 10.
- 22. The use of a nucleic acid sequence as claimed in claim 1 or of a fragment thereof for isolating a genomic sequence by homology screening.
- 23. The use of unsaturated fatty acids as claimed in claim 19 for producing human foods, animal feed, cosmetics or pharmaceuticals.